



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) **Advisory**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20150422-00110-ADV (Health Advisory)
RECIPIENTS: All providers, Long-term Care (LTC), hospitals, and ICPs - Statewide
DATE: Wednesday, April 22, 2015
SUBJECT: *Outbreak of Listeria Linked to Blue Bell Creameries Products*

Dear Colleagues:

- A nationwide recall of all Blue Bell Creameries products has been issued due to potential contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes*.
- There have been no associated cases reported in Mississippi.
- Institutions should ensure that Blue Bell products are not currently being distributed to residents or patients.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently investigating a multistate outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* linked to Blue Bell Creameries products. As of April 21, 2015, 10 cases in four states have been identified; with onsets of illness ranging from January 2010 through January 2015 (many of the cases have been linked retrospectively). Several strains of *Listeria* have been identified in the outbreak, with the investigation indicating various Blue Bell products as the source.

On April 20, 2015, Blue Bell Creameries expanded its original recall earlier in the month to now include all products currently on the market, including those distributed to **retail and institutional settings** in Mississippi. Blue Bell announced the expanded recall after a product produced in March tested positive for *Listeria*. *Listeria* had been previously identified in several other Blue Bell products. Visit http://www.bluebell.com/the_little_creamery/press_releases/all-product-recall for recall and consumer information. **As some of the implicated product was intended for institutional use, it is important for hospitals and long term care facilities to assure that no Blue Bell products are being provided to patients or residents. No cases linked to this outbreak have been reported in Mississippi.** Please see the CDC website for up to date outbreak information at <http://www.cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/ice-cream-03-15/index.html>

Listeria can cause an illness ranging from diarrhea and other gastrointestinal symptoms in immunocompetent adults to a more severe invasive disease with sepsis, meningitis and death in persons at higher risk. Pregnant women, newborns and immunocompromised persons are at greatest risk for invasive disease. The incubation period is variable from 3-70 days with a median of 3 weeks. CDC has issued guidance for healthcare professionals for the management and testing of patients who report exposure to foods potentially contaminated with *Listeria*, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/ice-cream-03-15/health-professionals.html>. Healthcare

providers with questions about Listeria reporting, management and testing may call the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, or 601-576-7400 on nights, weekends and holidays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dobbs", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Mississippi State Department of Health

Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20150213-00110-ADV
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Advisory
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00110
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program:	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier:	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert , ADV=Health Advisory , UPD=Health Update , MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type:	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service:	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).